

Mt. Carmel is famous among archaeologists for the prehistoric caves on its south flank. Shown here are three of the most well known. From right to left one sees the Cave of the Oven (Mugharet ha-Tannur) with the great archaeological dump in front, the Cave of the Kid (Mugharet es-Sukhul) and the Cave of the Valley (Mugharet el-Wad) almost concealed behind the trees at extreme left. Excavations in these caves began in 1929 under the direction of Dorothy Garrod on behalf of the British School of Archaeology. In the Cave of the Oven, one Neanderthal skeleton and one jawbone were found. In the Cave of the Kid, about ten skeletons were found in ancient burials. Some researchers have identified these as Cro-Magnon, while others have insisted that they are intermediate between Neanderthal and Cro-Magnon (both groups emerged between 125,000 and 100,000 years ago). Thousands of stone tools were found, and Carbon-14 dates of 52,000 years Before Present were calculated for the Mousterian cultures, which used these tools. Natufian remains of human burials were dated to 10,000 to 7500 B.C.E.